

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A curable, adhesive system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of (1) at least one monomer, polymerizable by free radical initiation, selected from the group consisting of (a) acrylate monomers, b) methacrylate monomers, (c) allylic monomers, (d) norbornene monomers, (e) mixtures of said monomers, (f) hybrid monomers of said monomers containing chemically different polymerizable groups in one monomer, and (g) multifunctional thiol monomers, provided that when said at least one monomer is a multifunctional thiol monomer, said thiol monomer is used in combination with at least one non-thiol monomer of said acrylate monomers, methacrylate monomers, allylic monomers, norbornene monomers, mixtures of said monomers, and/or hybrid monomers; and (2) a polymerization initiator, said adhesive system being a non-leaching system which, when in contact with liquid or liquid film present in an application in which the cured adhesive system is used, does not leach compounds that are detrimental to the application.
2. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching~~, curable, adhesive system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said monomers is a multifunctional thiol monomer used in combination with at least one of said non-thiol monomers provided with at least two functional polymerizable groups, said at least two groups being the same or different.
3. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching~~, curable, adhesive system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one monomer is an allylic monomer selected from the group consisting of the diallylic

ester of isophorone diisocyanate, triallyl cyanurate, triallyl isocyanurate, and di- and triallyl ether of trimethylolpropane.

4. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching,~~ curable, adhesive system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one monomer is a multifunctional thiol ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane trithiol, pentaerythritol tetrathiol, and ethoxylated homologs of these compounds.

5. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching,~~ curable, adhesive system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one monomer is 2,2-bis[4-(3-acryloyloxy-2-hydroxypropoxy)phenyl]propane.

6. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching,~~ curable, adhesive system according to claim 1, wherein said initiator is a photo-initiator, a thermal initiator, or a combination of both.

7. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching,~~ curable, adhesive system consisting essentially of (a) an adhesive system as defined in ~~according to~~ claim 1, and (b) wherein said system further comprises a reactive diluent.

8. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching,~~ curable, adhesive system according to claim 7, wherein said reactive diluent is an acrylate or a methacrylate diluent.

9. (currently amended) A curable, adhesive composition, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of (a) an adhesive system as defined in claim 1, and (b) a surface activating agent.

10. (previously presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 9, wherein said surface activating agent is an acrylic or methacrylic silane coupling agent.

11. (previously presented) An adhesive composition according to claim 10, wherein said methacrylic silane coupling agent is γ -methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.

12. (withdrawn) A process for the metal-to-metal and metal-to-glass adhesion by applying a coating of a curable, adhesive system, based on monomers as defined in claim 1, to the surfaces of parts to be joined, joining the thus coated surfaces of said parts and curing the combination, wherein the surfaces to be joined are pretreated with a surface activating agent before the application of the adhesive system.

13. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 12, wherein said surface activating agent is an acrylic or methacrylic silane coupling agent.

14. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 13, wherein said methacrylic silane coupling agent is γ -methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.

15. (withdrawn) Use of a non-leaching, curable, adhesive system, based on monomers as defined in claim 1 for the adhesion of a metal film to another metal film or a glass substrate of a liquid immersion objective, to be used for the preparation of a substrate, in particular an optical master disc.

16. (withdrawn) A liquid immersion objective, to be used for the preparation of a substrate, in particular an optical master disc, comprising a stack of metal films (8), an immersion objective lens (5), being provided in a through-hole (9), in said stack of metal films, and a substrate (2), being provided with a photo-resist layer (4) facing the immersion lens (5), said photo-resist layer and the immersion lens being separated by a water film (1), the water supply channel (3) thereof being provided between and through said stack of metal films (8) such that said water supply channel discharges into the interface between said objective lens and said substrate, said metal films and immersion lens being mutually bonded by means of an adhesive system according to claim 1.

17. (withdrawn) Use of a non-leaching, curable, adhesive system, based on monomers as defined in claim 1 for the mutual adhesion of at least two bodies, selected from among the group, consisting of metal films, (quartz-)glass substrates, and polymeric films, for the manufacturing and /or assembling of catheters, biosensors and other biomedical devices likely to come into contact with fluids and tissue.

18. (currently amended) A curable, adhesive system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of (1) a solution of 2,2-Bis[4-(3-acryloyloxy-2-hydroxypropoxy)phenyl]propane in 1,6-hexanedioldiacrylate with an effective amount of azobisisobutyronitrile initiator ; or (2) a solution of 2,2-Bis[4-(3-acryloyloxy-2-hydroxypropoxy)phenyl]propane in tripropyleneglycoldiacrylate and an effective amount of a polymerization initiator,

said adhesive system being a non-leaching system which, when in contact with liquid or liquid film present in an application in which the cured adhesive system is used, does not leach compounds that are detrimental to the application.

19. (currently amended) A ~~non-leaching~~, curable, adhesive composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of (a) an adhesive system as claimed in claim 18 and (b) ~~further comprising~~, as a coupling agent, γ -methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.

20. (new) A curable, adhesive system consisting essentially of a thiol-ene system composed of a mixture of at least one multithiol monomer and at least one multiallylic monomer with an effective amount of a free-radical polymerization initiator, said adhesive system being a non-leaching system which, when in contact with liquid or liquid film present in an application in which the cured adhesive system is used, does not leach compounds that are detrimental to the application.

21. (new) A curable, adhesive system consisting essentially of
(1) at least one monomer, polymerizable by free radical initiation, selected from the group consisting of the acrylate and methacrylate monomers: 2,2-bis[4-(3-acryloyloxy-2-hydroxypropoxy)phenyl]propane and 2,2-bis[4-(3-methacryloyloxy-2-hydroxypropoxy)phenyl]propane; the allylic monomers: diallylic ester of isophorone diisocyanate, triallyl cyanurate, triallyl isocyanurate, and di- and tri-allyl ethers of trimethylolpropane; norbornene monomers; the thiol monomers: trimethylolpropane trithiol, pentaerythritol tetrathiol and their ethoxylated homologues; mixtures of said monomers; hybrid monomers of said

monomers containing chemically different polymerizable groups in one monomer; provided that when said at least one monomer is a said thiol monomer, said thiol monomer is used in combination with at least one non-thiol monomer of said acrylate monomers, methacrylate monomers, allylic monomers, norbornene monomers, mixtures of said monomers, and/or hybrid monomers of said monomers; and

(2) a polymerization initiator, said adhesive system being a non-leaching system which, when in contact with liquid or liquid film present in an application in which the cured adhesive system is used, does not leach compounds that are detrimental to the application.

22. (new) A curable, adhesive composition consisting essentially of (a) an adhesive system as claimed in claim 20 and (b) as a coupling agent, γ -methacryloyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.